

S/N 09/544,360

Response to Office Action Dated 6/18/2003

REMARKS

The above Amendments, in conjunction with the following remarks, place the application in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests entry of the Amendments and favorable consideration of the application.

§102 Rejections

Claims 26, 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Herbert (US # 5,757,919). Applicant has canceled claim 26 and amended claims 28 and 29 to depend from objected to claim 27, which is now allowable as discussed below. Thus, claims 28 and 29 are allowable by virtue of at least their dependency from claim 27, and the rejection to these claims can now be removed. The rejection to claim 26 is moot.

§103 Rejection

Claim 30 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Herbert as applied to claim 26 and Official Notice taken as detailed in the Office Action. Like claims 28 and 29, claim 30 has been amended to depend from objected to claim 27, which is now allowable as discussed below. Thus, claim 30 is allowable by virtue of at least its dependency from claim 27, and the rejection to this claim can now be removed.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 4, 6-12, 15-22 and 25 are expressly allowed. Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 3, 4, 6-12, 15-22 and 25.

Claim 27 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but is allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 27 to include the limitations of the base claim 26. Therefore, claim 27 is allowable, and the objection to claim 27 may now be removed. Furthermore, claims depending from claim 27 are also allowable. Thus, as discussed above, claims 28-30 are allowable by virtue of at least their dependency from allowable claim 27.

Conclusion

All pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests prompt issuance of the present application. Should any issue remain that prevents immediate issuance of the application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney to discuss the unresolved issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 7/30/03By: Nathan R. Rieth

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